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Message Text

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ORIGIN SAM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY S/AM:LPEZZULLO:MHS
APPROVED BY S/AM:RJMCCLOSKEY
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P 301521Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
INFO CINCLANT
EUCOM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021586

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR THEMIDO'S CALL ON AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

1. PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THEMIDO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AT LARGE MCCLOSKEY ON JANUARY 29 IN AN INFORMAL SESSION TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN PORTUGAL OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. HE OPENED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE SITUATION IN LISBON WAS TOO UNSETTLED AT THE PRESENT TIME TO GET ANY GOP LEADERS TO FOCUS ON THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASSUMED THERE WAS LITTLE PROSPECT OF MOVING AHEAD UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS, BUT WAS PLEASED TO REPORT THAT ALL THE LEADERS HE SPOKE WITH FAVORED AN EXTENSION OF THE BASE AGREEMENT WITH THE USG.

2. IN HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES OUR AIDE MEMOIRE WAS DISCUSSED. WITHOUT SPECIFYING WHOSE OPINION HE WAS EXPRESSING, THEMIDO EMPHASIZED THERE WAS A STRONG FEELING ON THE PART OF THE GOP THAT THERE HAD TO BE SOME LINKAGE BETWEEN OUR BILATERAL
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ASSISTANCE AND THE QUID FOR THE BASE. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A PORTION OF OUR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE EARMARKED FOR ONE OF THE PROJECTS SUGGESTED IN THE LIST THE GOP HAD PRESENTED TO US LAST FALL. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ENCOUNTERED SOME UNHAPPINESS IN LISBON OVER THE RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF OUR ASSISTANCE THUS FAR. REFERRING AGAIN TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, THEMIDO SAID THE GOP PREFERRED THAT ALL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BE DIRECTED TO PROJECTS IN PORTUGAL. LATER, HE QUALIFIED BY STATING THAT SOME OF THE ASSISTANCE POSSIBLY COULD GO TO THE AZORES.

3. HE ONLY MENTIONED THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE QUID IN PASSING, AND THEN ONLY TO SAY THAT WHILE THE GOP WAS FLEXIBLE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PURCHASE SOME ITEMS ON CREDIT IT ASSUMED THAT GRANT ASSISTANCE WOULD COVER MOST ITEMS.

4. THEMIDO ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, NONETHELESS, MCCLOSKEY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONTINUE THESE INFORMAL MEETINGS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS.

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